

Conversation Contents

Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

"Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 19 2017 11:32:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

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Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

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From: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
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Subject: Re: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

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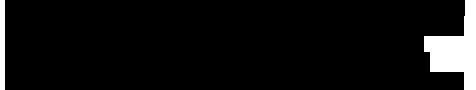
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I talked with Z. he likes this --> (b) (5)



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NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

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President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

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Laura Rigas
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From: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
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An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment for this article. But at a news conference near Monticello, Utah, earlier this month, Zinke said national monument status may not be the "right vehicle" for Bears Ears.

He ruled out the possibility of national park status for the site but said all other options remain on the table.

"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review, and until August to issue a final set of recommendations ([E&E Daily](#), May 10).

In particular, Lyman and other opponents of the Bears Ears site have argued that national monument status could curb future efforts for energy development in the area and have raised concerns that grazing or religious rituals could face eventual restrictions.

"That's the same message that we've been shouting for the last three years at least in terms of the monument," said Lyman, who served 10 days in jail last year after leading an illegal ATV ride through Recapture Canyon in 2015 to protest the Bureau of Land Management's prohibition on motorized travel in a portion of that site ([E&E News PM](#), Dec. 18, 2015).

Lyman expressed similar concerns about the new Bears Ears monument, which has yet to develop its own management plan.

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Lyman added that suggestions that local residents only "want to drill or loot or steal or disrespect" the area are "offensive on every level."

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San Juan Commissioner Bruce Adams said he likewise urged Zinke during his recent visit to Utah to rescind the monument, arguing that it "wasn't created the right way and I'd like to see it evaluated so that it could be done the right way."

He added, "I'd like to see the process started over and have the local people much more involved than there were previously."

Proponents of the monument — a coalition that includes various outdoor retailers and environmental and sportsmen's associations as well as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and Democratic lawmakers — have pointed to former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the area, including a public forum held in Bluff, Utah.

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